

For Immediate Release

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PTC graduates next group of officers

ZABUL, Afghanistan- The Police Training Center in Qalat celebrated the graduation of its largest class to date Saturday, Feb 19. More than 252 new officers joined the ranks of the Afghan National Police. The class consisted of 100 recruits from Zabul and more than 150 from Kandahar. Upon completion of the program each recruit will return to their home city to begin their duties as peace officers.

The training staff includes six ANP instructors as well as one civilian contractor teaching the six week long course. Throughout the course, recruits are taught basic in local policing techniques, Afghan constitution, customs and courtesies, weapons handling as well as how to reduce corruption within the force.

The ANP instructors were assisted by mentors from Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 23rd Marines from Houston. Alpha Company is part of 1st Battalion which is one of 36 infantry battalions in the United States Marine Corps, and one of the only nine battalions found in the reserve.

The Afghan government is taking the lead in professionalizing the program. Class sizes have increased greatly over the past six months from 40 recruits to more than 250. Zabul Provincial Governor Ashraf Naseri has also taken an active role in encouraging women of Zabul to take a more active role in governance and security affairs. As a result of this encouragement, female members of the Provincial Council attended the graduation ceremony.

Governor Ashraf Naseri and GIRoA continue to make great strides supporting a more professional police force and encouraging women's rights in Zabul province.

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Provincial Gov. Ashraf Naseri presents a certificate to a graduate during an Afghan National Police graduation at the Qalat Academy, Zabul province, Afghanistan, Feb. 19. More than 250 officers graduated from training and will return to their respective communities to serve.

. (Photo by: Air Force Staff Sgt. Brian Ferguson)



Graduates stand in formation during an Afghan National Police graduation at the Qalat Academy, Zabul province, Afghanistan, Feb. 19. More than 250 officers graduated from training and will return to their respective communities to serve.

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**Zabul province
Deputy Chief of
Police Jalani
Khan, center,
looks on as
more than 250
officers
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Afghan National
Police training
at the Qalat
Academy,
Afghanistan,
Feb. 19.
Graduates will
return to their
respective**



communities to serve. . (Photo by: Air Force Staff Sgt. Brian Ferguson)